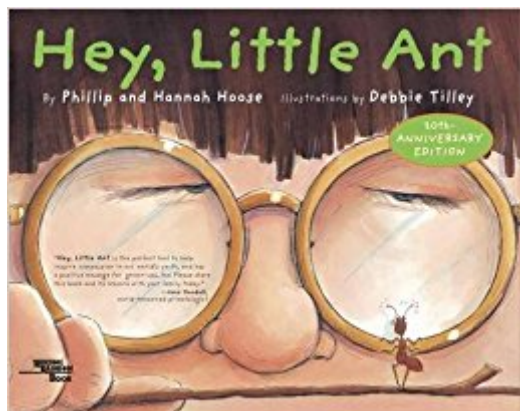


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# Hey, Little Ant



## Synopsis

What would you do if the ant you were about to step on looked up and started talking? Would you stop and listen? What if your friends saw you hesitate? That's what happens in this funny, thought-provoking book. Originally a song by a father-daughter team, this conversation between two creatures, large and small, is bound to inspire important discussions. It might even answer that classic childhood question: To squish or not to squish?

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tricycle Press (July 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1883672546

ISBN-13: 978-1883672546

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 110 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,414 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure #27

in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders #69 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

This parable about mercy and empathy asks readers to look at life from an insect's point of view. The text consists of the lyrics of a song performed by the Hooses (Phillip Hoose is the author of *It's Our World, Too!*; Hannah Hoose is his teenage daughter); the melody is appended. A boy converses with the tiny ant he wants to "squish." Pleading, "You are very much like me," the ant explains he has a family and community dependent upon him. The kid, in turn, argues, "Anyone knows ants can't feel," and he even cites peer pressure: "But all my friends squish ants all day.... They're looking at me! They're listening too./ They all say I should squish you." Tilley's (Dinosaur Dinner) cartoony color sketches supply welcome comic relief from this labored exchange. A bipedal ant approaching a picnic is shown wearing a burglar's mask, a bulging burlap sack slung over his shoulder; the boy is pictured reading by flashlight under the covers, while the ant nestles between

his own two children to read them a bedtime book. The Hooses signal their intent to inspire discussion by ending with a query to the reader: "What do you think that kid should do?" While some baby boomer parents may appreciate the Hooses' earnestness, it's doubtful that their kids will. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

PreSchool-Grade 2-Based on a song, this occasionally stilted narrative has a message: respect all creatures and their right to live. A bespectacled ant, loaded down with two shopping bags, is confronted by a human youngster intent on stepping on him. Before the boy can carry out his threat, the ant begs him to reconsider. Each double-page spread is devoted to one character expressing his opinion in the life vs. death debate. The brightly colored, full-page cartoon illustrations, rendered in pen, ink, and watercolor, capably convey the obvious differences and the surprising similarities of the two main characters. The boy is urged to look at things from the ant's point of view before deciding on his course of action. The tale's conclusion is open-ended as readers are asked, "What do you think that kid should do?" The accompanying picture shows a huge sneaker posed above the tiny ant. The music and verses appear on the last page of this tepid tale that could lead to discussions concerning bullies and/or the protection of other species. Maryann H. Owen, Racine Public Library, WI Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Bought to read to 4th graders to introduce opinion writing.

You know that book that kids have you read over and over so often that they have it memorized and read along with you and there's no getting away with skipping a page when you're in a hurry? Well, this is one of those books for my grandson. The boy loves bugs. Steps on them all. And the boy loves this book! He enjoys the slightly brainy, clever story and he adores the just terrific illustrations! Personification at its best! After reading the book, my grandson still steps on bugs. But he says, "Hi!", first.

This book challenges children's assumptions about the roles they play in life as compared to other creatures. Great book to help them appreciate the value in all life forms

My kindergarteners loved this book! It was a great discussion-starter. Should the boy step on the ant?

I buy a lot of books through for my classroom. I have never been disappointed yet!

Cute book. Sturdy too.

This simple picture book with rhyming verse revolves around a dialogue between a boy and the ant he is about to squish. The ant--who the boy thinks of as a small, insignificant pest--speaks up to provide a picture into who he is and his value to his ant society. The book ends with the open question "What do you think the kid should do?" enabling a discussion on compassion, similarities versus differences, and how to resolve issues involving differing views. One of the best anti-bullying books around--it is appropriate for all ages and makes a point that can be understood by anyone. If you are teaching your child (or class) tolerance, respect for others and understanding, you will find this book to be a perfect prop. If you simply love beautiful illustrations and appealing text, this is one for you, too.

Was planning to read it to my k-3rd gardenstudents but found it to be rather violent. If you want to teach respect for nature (including insects) this is not the book for you.

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